



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Congressman Heath Shuler Announces Awarding of Military Contract to Marion Firm

\$25 Million Contract will Protect 60 Jobs in McDowell County and Allow for Expansion of Toolcraft, Inc.

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Heath Shuler today announced that Toolcraft, Inc. of McDowell County, NC has been awarded a five-year contract from the Department of the Army. The initial contract order is for over \$1.4 million, with a cumulative value of \$25 million over five years. With the contract Toolcraft, Inc. will produce carrier assembly, key and bolts for the Army's M-16 rifle.

Headquartered in Marion and in existence since 1978, Toolcraft employs 60 people at its 40,000 square foot facility.

"This contract will allow Toolcraft to continue to grow and employ people right here in Western North Carolina," said Ray Porter, the owner and president of Toolcraft Inc. "Congressman Shuler's office was invaluable in this process, I thank them for their hard work and dedication to helping our small businesses."

"Small businesses, like Toolcraft, are the backbone of the economy here in the 11th District and across our nation. I am extremely pleased that my office was able to assist Mr. Porter and Toolcraft in obtaining this contract. I will continue working with small business leaders across Western North Carolina to create jobs and foster an environment for business growth and development."

Tom Jones, the Grant and Projects Coordinator in Congressman Shuler's Asheville Office, worked closely with Mr. Porter to help him navigate the federal contracting process and to be awarded the contract.

Congressman Shuler is a member of the House Committee on Small Business and chairs the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship.

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